

In the Claims:

Claims 4-12 were previously cancelled. The remaining claims 1-3 on file are amended as follows.

1. (Presently amended) A composition comprising a pre-formed hydrolytically susceptible polyanionic polymer comprising:  
at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond; and  
linked to the linking moiety at least two polyanionic polymer segments, wherein all polyanionic polymer segments in the polymer are linked to the whole by a said linking moiety, and 90% or more of the polyanionic polymer segments in the composition have molecular weight of 50 kd or less, wherein said polymer degrades into said polyanionic polymer segments and said polyanionic polymer segments are water soluble.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein 90% or more of the polyanionic polymer segments in the composition have molecular weight of 40 kd or less.

3. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the average molecular weight of the polyanionic polymer segments in the composition is from 20 kd to 40 kd.

4-12. Cancelled.